

MARVEL

11

LGY#737

DONNY CATES

NIC KLEIN

MATT WILSON

THOR



OLIVIER COIPEL 20
laure



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIOT R. BROWN

MIKE HOBSON 1936–2020



Last month, longtime Marvel Comics Publisher Mike Hobson passed away. In remembrance of his life and work, Mike's friend and colleague Tom DeFalco, former Marvel Editor in Chief, shared his memories of the Marvel luminary.

Many are the unsung heroes of the comic book industry. These people are the hidden giants who work behind the scenes — without credit, fanfare or fame — but are essential to the creation of your comics. They are people like Mike Hobson.

As a supervisor at Marvel, Mike was the greatest. He encouraged initiative, listened with an open mind and always supported his people. He rarely raised his voice and had a near-magical way of defusing tense situations. (Mixing creative people with those from marketing, sales or accounting is usually a recipe for disaster.)

Mike defined the word “gentleman.” He was refined and soft-spoken, had an infectious laugh and was an intriguing conversationalist, well-versed in a variety of subjects. He knew the best restaurants, the tastiest dishes, the most flavorful wines and the finest hotels. An invitation to dine with Mike was always a treasured event. He was the adult we all wanted to be when we grew up.

Whenever I think of Mike, two occasions spring to mind. One is the very first time Marvel sent me on a business trip by myself. Mike asked to see me before I left. I went to his office with pen and pad, expecting some last-minute business instructions. Instead, he told me to make sure I made lunch and dinner reservations and gave me a list of restaurants.

I also recall sitting in my office one afternoon when a furious Mike burst in.

“Do you know what those two idiots are doing?” He asked.

“Which two idiots?” I responded.

Mike glared at me for a moment and then suddenly exploded in unrestrained laughter. He actually fell into my couch, and it took him several minutes to regain control. It seems two of my editors had stuck a fishing pole out our seventh-floor window with an old Milky Way for bait and were trolling for passersby. While Mike could appreciate the humor in the situation, he felt our editors needed to adhere to a higher standard of professionalism. That was Mike.

Mike Hobson was my boss and my friend. He will be missed.

Tom DeFalco
November 2020



THOR

THOR IS THE GOD OF THUNDER AND ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD.

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO RECENT TROUBLES, THOR ATTEMPTED TO TRADE PLACES WITH HIS OLD ALTER EGO, DONALD BLAKE. BLAKE HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR YEARS NOW, ENJOYING WHAT THOR BELIEVED TO BE AN IDYLIC LIFE IN A WORLD OF ODIN'S MAKING.

BUT THOR WAS WRONG. TRAPPED IN A SUBURBAN FANTASY, BLAKE WENT INSANE. UPON RELEASE, BLAKE IMMEDIATELY SNAPPED THE CANE THAT ALLOWS THOR TO RETURN, TRAPPING THE THUNDER GOD IN A HELLSCAPE.

THERE THOR FOUND JORMUNGAND, THE DREADED MIDGARD SERPENT, BREATHING HIS LAST. THE SERPENT HAD TRIED TO UNITE WITH BLAKE AGAINST ODIN, BUT INSTEAD BLAKE STOLE JORMUNGAND'S POWERS AND JOINED THEM WITH THE ODIN-FORCE ALREADY WITHIN HIM.

MEANWHILE, ASGARD'S BEST WARRIORS TRIED TO STOP BLAKE AND FOUND THEMSELVES TELEPORTED TO DIMENSION BLOOD, WITH BLAKE IN CONTROL OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE.

NOW BLAKE IS HEADED TO MIDGARD FOR A REUNION WITH AN OLD FLAME. DOCTOR JANE FOSTER (A.K.A. THE NEW VALKYRIE) HAS NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING FOR HER.

“prey” **PART THREE OF SIX**

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THOR created by SCAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



PREY

PART THREE OF SIX



WHAT'S
NEW WITH
YOU?
TELL ME
EVERYTHING.



DONALD... YOU SEEM, I DON'T KNOW, DIFFERENT THAN YOU HAVE IN THE PAST?

...DID... SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YOUR...Y'KNOW, THE CHANGE?

I MEAN, I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU TOO, BUT...LAST I SAW YOU...I MEAN...HIM... HE WAS HEADING OFF TO BE KING, AND NOW...I DON'T KNOW...



KING. HA...YES...I DON'T THINK THE CROWN FIT THE WAY HE EXPECTED IT TO. I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...

...SHOWING UP OUT OF NOWHERE AND ACTING LIKE A COMPLETE LOON...



HEY. I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

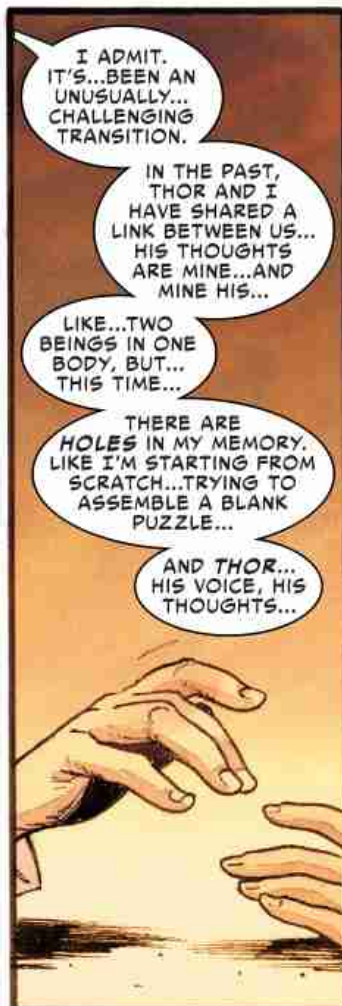
IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU'VE BEEN... WELL, YOU... MAYBE I'M JUST NOT USED TO IT YET...

BUT I'M LISTENING TO YOU...AND YOU... I DON'T KNOW...

YOU DON'T SEEM HAPPY TO ME...



WELL... HEH HEH, YOU'VE FOUND ME OUT.



I ADMIT. IT'S...BEEN AN UNUSUALLY... CHALLENGING TRANSITION.

IN THE PAST, THOR AND I HAVE SHARED A LINK BETWEEN US... HIS THOUGHTS ARE MINE...AND MINE HIS...

LIKE...TWO BEINGS IN ONE BODY, BUT... THIS TIME...

THERE ARE HOLES IN MY MEMORY. LIKE I'M STARTING FROM SCRATCH...TRYING TO ASSEMBLE A BLANK PUZZLE...

AND THOR... HIS VOICE, HIS THOUGHTS...



HE SEEMS...

...SO FAR AWAY...

I FEAR...

"...I FEAR HE HAS GONE
SOMEWHERE I CANNOT
FOLLOW."

AAGHH!!!



BY
ODIN!!!



HEAR ME!
HEAR MY
THUNDER!!!

PLEASE...

FATHER, SIF...
HUGINN, MUNINN...
ANYONE!!!

HEED MY
CALL!

LET
ME...

LET
ME GO
HOME...



WELL...
THIS IS JUST
EMBARRASSING.

WHAT...

RATATOSKR!

THE VERY
SAME.



AFTER THE WAR OF THE
REALMS, I THOUGHT YOU
HAD STAYED BEHIND
ON MIDGARD.*

I'M A **CHAOS**
GOD, THOR. YOU
THINK I WOULD MISS
THE REIGN OF THE
THUNDER KING? IT'S
BEEN SUCH A DELIGHT
TO WATCH. HONESTLY,
BEST TIME I'VE
HAD IN AGES.

YOU...YOU
HAVE TO HELP
ME. YOU HAVE TO
GET WORD THROUGH
YGGDRASIL TO MY
PEOPLE. TELL THEM
WHAT HAS HAPPENED
TO ME. TELL THEM
THAT BLAKE
HAS--

OH, I'M
AFRAID NOT,
THOR... YOU
SEE...



*SEE UNBEATABLE
SQUIRREL GIRL #46.
--WIL



THERE
IS NO ONE
TO GET
WORD TO.

NOT UP
THERE, AT
LEAST...



ASGARD
IS EMPTY,
THOR...

"...ALL THE GODS...
ARE LOST."

DIMENSION BLOOD.

THIS IS
INSANE! WE
HAVE TO GET
HOME--WE DO
NOT HAVE
TIME FOR
THIS!

YOU HEARD THEM, LADY
SIF. WE ARE HONORED
GUESTS; IT WOULD BE
QUITE RUDE NOT TO...
INDULGE THEM. IF ONLY
FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
BEFORE WE... MAKE
OUR HEROIC
RETURN...

IS THERE ANY MORE
OF THIS LEG PIECE?
OR IS THIS
THIGH?

YESS...FRIENDSS OF
THOR. FRIENDSS OF
OURS. MIGHTY THOR.
FREE USSS OF TYRANNY
DURING CIVIL BONE
WARSS AFTER
SSSTRANGE DOCTOR
TURN HALF OF USSS
TO BUNNISS.

FOUGHT
HERE FOR MANY
YEARSS. SAVE MY
FATHER. KILL MY
UNCLE. HIM
MELT.

VERY DRUNK. VERY
BRAVE. FRIEND OF
THOR. FRIEND OF
USSS. YOU SSSTAY.

THIS IS
INSANE.



...BILL?

N-NO...
PLEASE...

YOU'RE AWAKE. OH,
THANK HEVEN,
YOU HAD US
ALL SO--

DON'T.
PLEASE...

WHAT...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT DID I--

I...I
DON'T WANT
YOUR...PITY.

I DON'T...
DESERVE IT.



NO.
BILL...

I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
STRONGER...
I SHOULD
HAVE...

HEY...HE
BLINDSIDED ALL
OF US. IF ANYONE
SHOULD HAVE SEEN
IT COMING, IT WAS
ME. THIS IS
NOT YOUR--



I SHOULD
HAVE PROTECTED
YOU.





BILL, I DON'T... I DON'T NEED YOU TO PROTECT ME. I JUST NEED YOU TO--

YOU'RE RIGHT. MY APOLOGIES, LADY SIF. I SHOULDN'T HAVE--

NO, DON'T-- IT'S OKAY. WE CAN--

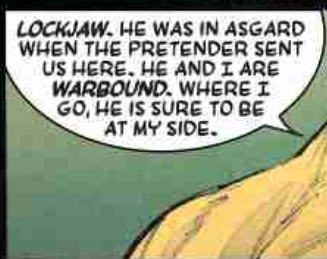


I KNOW-- GET OFF OF ME!

I KNOW A WAY TO GET US HOME.

WHAT? HOW?

BLEET!



LOCKJAW. HE WAS IN ASGARD WHEN THE PRETENDER SENT US HERE. HE AND I ARE WARBOUND. WHERE I GO, HE IS SURE TO BE AT MY SIDE.

WE MUST SIMPLY FIND HIM, AND HE CAN TELEPORT--

LOCKJAW LEFT.



WHAT? BUT... WHERE...

LOCKJAW SAY FRIEND IN TROUBLE. SAY HE SMELL DEATH COMING.

OLD FRIEND. WARBOUND. LOCKJAW LEAVE HOURS AGO.

TOLD THORI TO TELL YOU...



BUT THORI FORGOT.



A MORGUE ASSISTANT? JANE... BUT YOU WERE... I MEAN, YOU ARE SUCH A--A BRILLIANT SURGEON. HOW DID--

I KNOW. IT'S NOT IDEAL, BUT YEAH. AFTER, YOU KNOW...EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED... I'M...

...OKAY WITH IT. IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE FULFILLING WORK...

YOU KNOW...TO BE THE LAST PERSON TO... GUIDE THEM HOME.

I KNOW IT SOUNDS MORBID... BUT...IT FEELS RIGHT.

WELL. I SUPPOSE I'VE MISSED QUITE A LOT...

I'LL ADMIT... IT'S...WHY I CAME TO SEE YOU. I GUESS I JUST NEEDED A FRIENDLY FACE...

HOW LONG... I MEAN, WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BACK?

BEFORE I CAME TO YOU? OH, NOT LONG. I SPENT SOME TIME BOUNCING AROUND... GETTING MY... FEET WET, AS IT WERE...

WHICH REMINDS ME... I WANTED TO ASK...

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE...ODIN IS THESE DAYS?

...VISITING SOME OLD FRIENDS...

I'VE BEEN... ASKING AROUND, AND NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW...

OH GOD. I DON'T KNOW. WE AREN'T ON THE BEST TERMS. WE NEVER REALLY GOT ALONG WHEN I WAS THOR, AND I DON'T THINK THE OLD MAN IS--



...WHEN YOU WERE WHAT?



GOD, DONALD, YOU HAVE MISSED A LOT.

DO YOU REALLY NOT REMEMBER THIS? I...I WAS THOR FOR A TIME WHEN YOU, WELL, WHEN HE WASN'T?



HAMMER AND EVERYTHING? FOUGHT MANGOG? SAVED ASGARD, BEAT CANCER? YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF--



NO!!!







YOU
WERE ALWAYS
GOOD TO ME,
JANE.

YOU...

...YOU
LOVED ME,
ONCE.

NOT
HIM.

ME.

YOU DON'T
BELONG IN THE
MORGUE.



**MCCARTHY MEDICAL
INSTITUTE.**

LACER...

"I HOPE YOU DIDN'T
HAVE A HEAVY LUNCH,
FOSTER..."



THAT'S
PUTTING IT
MILDLY.

SORRY I'M
LATE, RUDY,
AN OLD FRIEND
WAS IN TOWN,
AND I--

JANE.



I'M
SERIOUS.

I...I NEED
YOU TO LOOK
AT SOMETHING.
AND I...I NEED
YOU TO BRACE
YOURSELF.

I'VE...I
HAVE SEEN
SOME...BAD
THINGS IN MY
TIME DOWN
HERE, BUT
THIS...

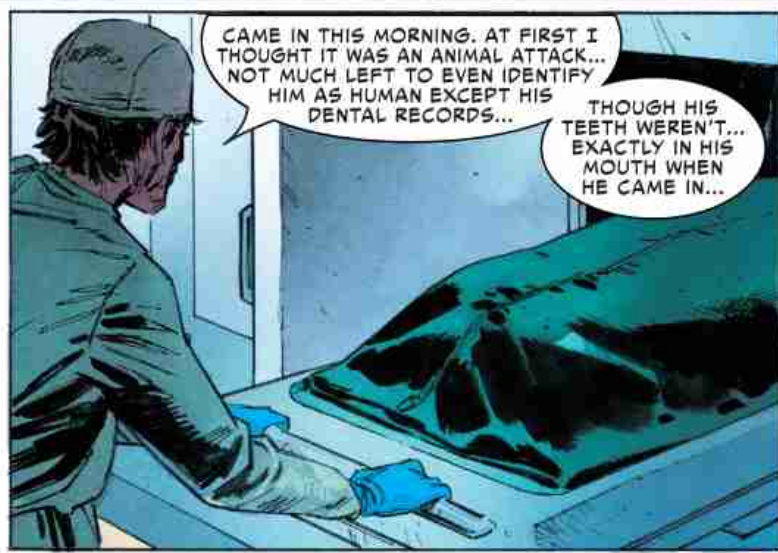
PLUS,
I'M SORRY,
JANE. BUT...
I THINK...



I THINK
HE'S...ONE OF
YOURS...

WH...
WHAT?







COOOWWWW!

COME
OUT...COME
OUT...

YOU THINK
I'M SCARED
OF YOU?

OF
YOU?!

SHOW
YOURSELF, YOU
MISERABLE--

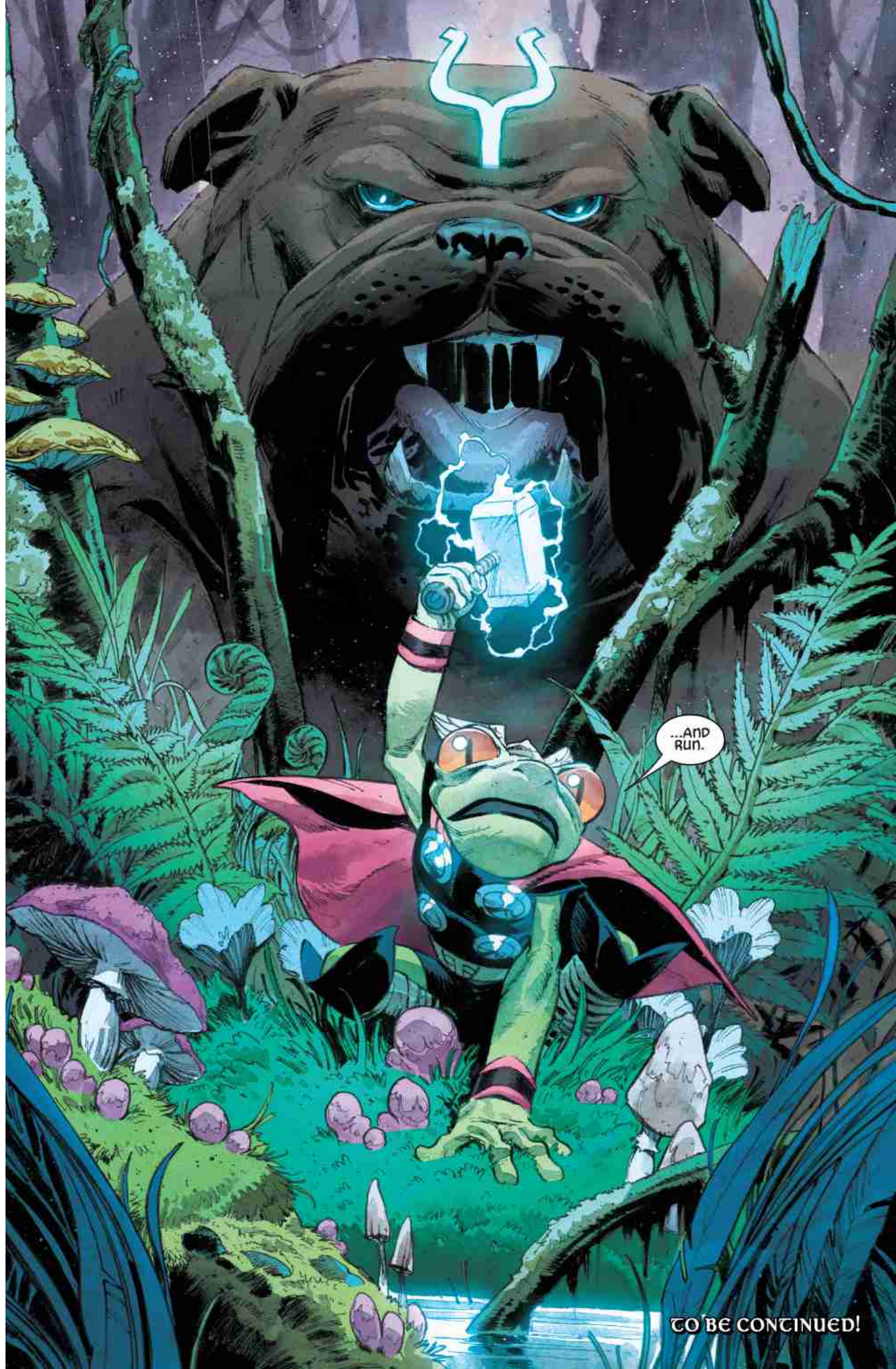
KRAKOOOOWWWW

AGHHH!!!

I WAS NOT
HIDING.

I WAS
HUNTING.

NOW,
GET UP...



...And Run.

TO BE CONTINUED!

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Huginn, we seem to be very popular with Midgard. The mortals' hands must hurt from all the prayers we have been receiving. You are all too kind to mere birds such as ourselves. If I could smile I would, but alas, a beak prevents me.

Pfft! Please, Muninn, you commend the mortals too much. We do most of the work! Why, my beak is sore from all their blabbering. Are we even being compensated for this work?

Ah, Huginn, seems someone is becoming apprehensive without our dear All-Father. Alas, all we can do for now is continue with these prayers from the mortals, in hope that they reach All-Father's ears!

Aye! I shall let my beak fall off if it means helping All-Father and Lady Sif! Hurry! Hurry! The first prayer:

Huginn & Muninn,

Wise are those who decree THOR #9 worthy of praise, but enough of these musings...

I sit in the holt of mine shelter pondering one fine thing. How was it that Huginn & Muninn became the fabled ravens of Odin's realm? Surely there is a tale to be told beyond compare. Many ravens there could have been worthy of such honor as yours, as Odin's messengers, yet you fly his decrees. Why, I would read a book of verse on just that one story, I daresay! What say you, birds of black? Was it your "thought" and "memory" that won the day? Please regale us with your tale with haste, for I fear I cannot wait a moment more. Frost Giants and Dark Elves approach mine land. I fear this musing may reach you late. What I would give for a raven of mine own!

Yours from afar,
Scott J. Toney
of the Midgard land of Pittsburgh

I daresay! Frost Giants! Dark Elves! Why, I did not know such creatures existed in Midgard. How the times are changing before mine very eye. Seems the realms are starting to hear of the All-Father's disappearance. Fear not, mortal! For when he returns, he shall correct this imbalance! Hold steady.

Aye, but, Muninn, the mortal asks about our tale! Ha! Finally, a human I can respect. Why, it's a wonderful tale. We were deemed suitable birds for our speed of flight! Muninn and I can fly all over Midgard in one day! Dare I say it, the once All-Father Odin was impressed indeed! Of course, to be chosen was the greatest honor. We are the embodiment of thought and memory!

Able to be the far eyes of the All-Father and--

By Odin's beard, Huginn, now is not the time to speak of us and our tales! Did you forget about Donald Blake and his need for murder--ha, I daresay I made a pun, Huginn. Back to the point though! This mortal will have to wait--'tis not our time.

Aye, Aye, I got ahead of myself. 'Tis a righteous tale. Perhaps I shall speak with our honored scribe, Donny, to write our life story when this has all settled. Ha! A true honor to have it written by him.

I like THOR. I think it's a great series. I love Donny Cates' writing. He's good. Plus, the artwork is awesome. I really love the story. Thor is a pretty tough dude. Keep up the great work.

JDA3 Comics

The mortal speaks many truths! We shall pass this along to our Asgardian scribe, Donny. For it shall ignite a flame in his heart to keep writing about our great All-Father!

Huzzah! Nicely said, Muninn. Such spirit. Why, I didn't know you had it in you to be so kind to the mortals.

Aye... don't push it, Huginn. I am in high spirits today.

Dude, I love the new Donald Blake! Such a great concept of making Thor's old alter ego a villain, and, man, is he a stone-cold killer or what? Issue #9 was really great, and that Hildebrandt variant was my choice of cover. Such amazing artwork. It would be perfect for a poster. The small world below Yggdrasil was a mindblower, and what's with Mjolnir? Looking forward to some more Donald Blake villainy. Keep filling my pull box with more. You got this. Hey, Drawn to Comics family!

Billy Goreski
Glendale, AZ

Ah! A fine eye this mortal has--our Asgardian artist Gregory Hildebrandt always does spectacular work indeed! Why, even a mere raven like myself wishes to be drawn by him!

We ravens warned of Donald Blake and his possible change in persona! But nay! A raven's work is never appreciated. Hmph!

I don't remember the day or the exact year. But I remember the Speedee Mart and the barbershop next door, where they had

a table in the corner with a stack (more or less) of various comics. They let us come in and read them, but we couldn't take them with us. Among them, I found my first copy of JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and was introduced to Thor and Loki for the very first time. I wish I'd sneaked out with that book. I think this version of Thor rivals all of his incarnations over these many years, including the great Simonson issues.

Thanks so much,
Skip the Dog

Aye, it was by the will of the All-Father--and a couple of birds--that led you to picking up the tome of the mighty Thor when you were young. And for that, mortal, you are most welcome! I shall accept all the praise in your next correspondence! For I accept only the finest treats and refreshments, mortal.

Huginn! I daresay you were not even there that day! For you made me do all the work--do not try to deny it--my memory is sharp! Thank you, kind mortal, for your words. We shall pass it on to our scribe, Donny Cates, for he has mastered how to render our All-Father.

Hmph! Muninn, you couldn't let it pass this one time?

Hey!

Donny Cates' THOR run has been an amazing ride so far! It is easily one of the best titles coming out right now and feels right at home with the classic Thor tales at Marvel. Even the Norse peoples would be proud! The artwork is also stunning and oftentimes feels like it should be hung on wall.

Great work, everyone!
Nick

Thank you for your wonderful words, Nick! We shall pass them along accordingly. Why, our artists--Nic Klein and Matthew Wilson--shall have a drink to you tonight!

Aye! We searched high and low for the perfect scribe and artists to depict our All-Father! Only the best for his tales!

Why, I daresay I think that was the last one, Muninn. We are getting quite good at this.

We shall pass along all your kind words! Please continue to pray for our All-Father and Asgard! For I fear we are far from the end with Donald Blake and his disastrous plans...

NEXT ISSUE:



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